

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A toothbrush, comprising:

a center toothbrush rod; and

a ~~an~~ arcuately curved leaf spring having a normal arcuate curvature, said leaf spring being connected to a ~~fore-end tip~~ front end of said toothbrush rod, said leaf spring having an orientation extending forwardly and curving upwardly from said tip front end;

a ~~plurality of bristle~~ brush segments each including inlaid bristles, said brush segments being disposed on said leaf spring, and oriented such that said bristles inlaid in said bristle segments extending extend directionally from a bottom surface of said leaf spring;

a brush piece including other inlaid bristles being disposed on said leaf spring in a position forward of said brush segments with said other bristles extending directionally from the bottom surface of the leaf spring, said brush piece including a protruded top portion presenting thereon a rearwardly facing surface which is slanted forwardly in an upward direction; and

an actuating member including a forwardly disposed operating plate~~[[;]]~~, said actuating member being slidably ~~disposed~~ mounted on said toothbrush rod ~~so that~~
~~—————said operating plate is slidable over~~ such that when said actuating member is slidably moved in a forward direction, said operating plate initially overlays a top surface of said spring, thereby flattening ~~for linearly extending~~ said spring against a bias of the normal arcuate curvature thereof; [[and]] ~~—————~~
~~—————a fore-end tip of said operating plate is~~ further slidable forward movement of said actuating member bringing a portion of said operating plate into engagement with said ~~slidable against a rearwardly facing and upwardly slanting~~ surface of said protruded top portion of said brush piece, causing said brush piece to pivot downward ~~a fore-end segment of said plurality of bristle segments for pivoting~~ ~~said fore-end segment~~ relative to said toothbrush rod against the bias of said leaf spring.

5. (Currently amended) The toothbrush of according to claim 4, wherein:
 said actuating member is normally locked against said toothbrush rod;
 said actuating member includes a rearwardly disposed push button; and
 said push button is pushable for enabling sliding of said actuating member over said toothbrush rod.

6. (Currently amended) The toothbrush of according to claim 5, wherein:

said push button includes guide protrusions extending from opposing side surfaces thereof; and

said rod includes a guide cavity formed to receive said guide protrusions.

7. (Currently amended) The toothbrush ~~of~~ according to claim 6, wherein:

said protrusions are normally locked against said cavity for preventing sliding of said actuating member over said toothbrush rod; and

pushing said button releases said guide protrusions from said guide cavity for enabling sliding of said actuating member over said rod ~~and~~.

8. (Currently amended) The toothbrush ~~of~~ according to claim 4, further comprising:

opposing side ribs extending downwardly from opposing side edges of said operating plate; and

said opposing side ribs being capable of enclosing opposing side surfaces of a fore-end segment of said toothbrush rod when said operating plate is disposed thereover.

9. (Currently amended) The toothbrush ~~of~~ according to claim 7, wherein a flexible groove is formed between said guide protrusions ~~in~~ of said push button of said actuating member.